

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 GAC-01 ACDA-19 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 117659

R 051125 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9702

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5721

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT SITREP FOR APR 5, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO ON MAR 5 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0127

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, CA, HU, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 5, 1973

1. SUMMARY: HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN DINH TUONG AND KIEN
PHONG BUT THE REST OF THE DELTA WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. THE
CANADIANS CONTINUE TO BE FRUSTRATED WITH THE ATTITUDES OF THE
POLES AND HUNGARIANS ON THE ICCS. IN CHUONG THIEN
VC THREAT RATHER THAN ACTUALITY OF FORCE IS REAPING SUBSTANTIAL
BENEFITS FOR THEM. AN XUYEN SECTOR HAS REQUESTED FIVE BATTALIONS
TI BEGIN BUILDING OUTPOSTS IN HERETOFORE VC AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.
END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: SECURITY REMAINS MUCH THE SAME WITH HEAVY
CONTACT IN THE CAI LAY AREA OF DINH TUONG AND AROUND HONG NGU,
AND ONLY SCATTERED FIGHTING IN OTHER AREAS. ENEMY INITIATED
INCIDENTS REPORTED ON APRIL 4 TOTALED 43, AND AT LEAST TWO OF
THOSE WERE SIGNIFICANT. IN SOUTHERN CAI LAY DISTRICT A GVN TROOP
POSITION RECEIVED 500-600 ROUNDS OF PNDIRECT FIRE WHICH KILLED
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23 AND WOUNDED 56 GVN TROOPS. IN ADDITION THE VC/ NVA HAVE MORTARED

TWO DINH TUONG DISTRICT TOWNS IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. IN ONE ENGAGEMENT NEAR HONG NGU RVNAF FORCES REPORTEDLY KILLED 50 VC/ NVA AND CAPTURED 12 CREW- SERVED WEAPONS. TOTAL FRIENDLY CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE AMONG THE HIGHEST SINCE THE CEASEFIRE FOR THE PERIOD WERE AMONG THE HIGHEST SINCE THE CEASEFIRE OFFENSIVE: RVNAF: 65 KIA, 190 WIA, 6 MIA; VC/ NVA: 117 KIA, 1 CAPTURED.

3. ICCS: (A) WE UNDERSTAND FROM REGION VII CANDEL THAT ICCS REGION VI HAS REPORTED TO SAIGON THE COMPLETE INACTIVITY OF THE GVN JMC ELEMENT SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE US CONTINGENT. CONDEL NOTED THAT THE SAME IS TRUE IN REGION VII ALTHOUGH TO A LESSER DEGREE. THE INACTIVITY OF THE GVN TEAM IS NOT HAVING ANY SIGNIFICANT AFFECT ON ICCS OPERATIONS.

(B). THE HEAD OF THE ICCS VI THANH CANDEL IN CHUONG THIEN TOLD OUR VICE CONSUL THAT NEITHER THE POLES NOR THE HUNGARIANS SEEM TO BE TAKING THE PEACEKEEPING MISSION SERIOUSLY. HE SAID THE CANADIANS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DO ALL THE PAPERWORK AND KEEP THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY WORKING. HE ADDED THAT THE SITUATION HAS LED HIM TO CRITICIZE THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS SHARPLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS LEADING TO NASTY CONFRONTATIONS BUT WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDE. THE VICE CONSUL COMMENTS THAT SUCH CONFRONTATIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE AFFECTED PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ON THE VI THANH TEAM, AND THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS SEEM TO REGARD AN OCCASIONAL CANADIAN OUTBURST AS THE PRICE THEY MUST PAY FOR THEIR LOW- KEY OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS.

4. JMC : LTC NGUYEN MAU, HEAD OF THE GVN VI THANH JMC TEAM, AND A TEAM INTERPRETER, ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS RECENTLY TOLD OUR VICE CONSUL THAT THEY BELIEVE THE TPJMC TEAMS WOULD DEPLOY TO A NUMBER OF DISTRICT TOWNS IN ADDITION TO THE LOCATIONS OF THE FPJMC. LTC MAU ATTENDED A MEETING IN THU DUC APRIL 2, AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS WOULD BE SOLVED AT THE MEETING. HE HAD NOT RETURNED BY APRIL 4.

5. VC ACTIVITY: (A). THE VICE CONSUL IN VINH LONG REPORTS THAT THERE IS A 60 MAN VC DRAMA TEAM, FULLY EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTS AND AMPLIFIERS, OPERATING IN VINH BINH PROVINCE. HE UNDERSTANDS THE TEAM SETS THE EQUIPMENT UP IN A HOUSE OR PAGODA, WAITS UNTIL THE GVN SOLDIERS ARE ASLEEP IN OUTPOSTS, AND THEN SENDS CADRE TO " INVITE" VILLAGERS TO THE PERFORMANCE. REPORTEDLY THE TEAM HAS PERFORMED IN AT LEAST THREE VILLAGES IN CHAU THANH DISTRICT IN WHICH THE PROVINCE TOWN IS LOCATED.

(B) THE VC ARE ACTIVE IN PROPAGANDA AND TAXATION IN KIEN LONG
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DISTRICT OF CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE AND RECENTLY BEGAN TO THREATEN THAT THEY WOULD TAKE THE DISTRICT TOWN. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, A NUMBER OF RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN, HAVING HEARD THE VC THREAT, ARE MOVING INTO VC AREAS. THE VICE CONSUL COMMENTS THAT KIEN LONG DISTRICT, WHICH INCLUDES PART OF THE U MINH FOREST, IS RECOGNIZED TO BE AN AREA OF OVERWHELMING VC STRENGTH. HE SPECULATES THAT THE VC MAY BE TRYING TO FRIGHTEN THE TOWNSPEOPLE INTO LEAVING WITHOUT HAVING ANY INTENTION OF ACTUALLY ATTACKING THE TOWN.

6. GVN ACTIVITY: (A). AN XUYEN SECTOR HAS REQUESTED FIVE INFANTRY BATTALIONS FROM THE 21 ST DIVISION. THREE WILL BE ASSIGNED TO BUILD EIGHT OUTPOSTS IN TAN HOA AND TAN THUAN VILLAGES IN DAM DOI DISTRICT. TWO WILL BUILD SOME FIVE OUTPOSTS IN DA BAC AND BAI GHE HAMLETS IN SONG ONG DOC DISTRICT. THE VILLAGES IN DAM DOI ARE TRADITIONAL AREAS OF VC CONTROL AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF PLANS TO MOVE THE POPULATION INTO ZONES BETWEEN THE OUTPOSTS AND THUS PLACE THEM NOMINALLY UNDER GVN JURISDICTION. THE PROVINCE CHIEF SAYS THIS ACTION IS NECESSARY IF HE IS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1973 RECONSTRUCTION AND RESETTLEMENT PLAN WHICH REQUIRES THAT ALL VILLAGES IN AN XUYEN BE REOCCUPIED. THE VICE CONSUL IN CA MAU COMMENTS THAT VC FORCES IN DAM DOI ARE PROBABLY STRONG ENOUGH TO THWART THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S PLAN EVEN IF HE OBTAINS THE THREE BATTALIONS REQUESTED. EVEN WITH NO CHANCE OF OBTAINING ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, HOWEVER, THE OPERATION WOULD BE MILITARILY USEFUL BECAUSE IT WOULD RELIEVE RECENT STRONG VC PRESSURE ON WESTERN BAC LIEU. THE TWO BATTALIONS ASSIGNED TO SONG ONG DOC WOULD HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

BARNES

BWHITEHOUSE

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